

him directly.<sup>422</sup> Babbitt said that prior to July 14, 1995, he had no knowledge or awareness of fund-raising efforts by the Democratic Party targeting the American Indian community.<sup>423</sup>

Babbitt said he never talked to Ickes or anyone at the White House about the Hudson application. While his relationship on many matters “went right back to the Deputy Chief of Staff,”<sup>424</sup> Ickes, Babbitt said he would have remembered if White House officials had asked him to move something along because that would have been unusual. Babbitt first learned of White House interest in the Hudson application in August 1996 when he read Sibbison’s memo that was prepared as an attachment to Babbitt’s Aug. 30, 1996, letter to Sen. McCain.

In describing his relationship with Ickes, Babbitt said that prior to 1993, he knew of Ickes but had no working relationship with him. Ickes was interested in Interior issues and in the National Park Service. He said Ickes did not involve himself in environmental policy issues; those went to the Council on Environmental Quality, which is the province of Vice President Gore. Rather, Ickes tended to handle things which were in dispute, and Babbitt had personal contact with Ickes on several specific issues. Babbitt said those included water issues in the Western states, the 1995 government shut down including its impact on the Grand Canyon

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<sup>422</sup>Babbitt heard about proposed campaign appearances at his DOI staff scheduling meetings. He said he did a lot of campaign stops in 1996, but few fund-raisers. Babbitt said his staff understood he disliked fund-raising.

<sup>423</sup>Babbitt said he thought Kevin Gover had been the New Mexico Chairman of the Clinton/Gore campaign in 1992. He was not specifically aware that Gover was engaged in fund-raising at the time, although he assumes that such a position would involve fund-raising. Babbitt said he believes he started to recruit Gover for the position of Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in 1996, but he is not sure what Gover was doing at the time. Babbitt said he is sure he never discussed fund-raising with Gover and was unaware of an organization called Native Americans for Clinton/Gore.

<sup>424</sup>DOJ Prelim. Babbitt Int. at 3.